

Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

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The *UPDATE*

June 2001

What's New...

We are happy to welcome two new staff members and must bid farewell to two long time colleagues. Martha Maddy and Leigh Plummer are the two newest Laboratory Certification Officers (LCOs). They joined the Office in June 2001. Their telephone numbers can be located at the end of this publication. Please join us in welcoming these two new members.

Tony Lofton has taken a new position in the Bureau of Water and Charmaine Flemming has joined the private sector. While we will miss them, we celebrate with them in their new adventures. If either Tony or Charmaine were your contact in the past, please feel free to contact our Office at (803) 896-0970 and ask for an LCO. We will be happy to help you with any questions.

We are now on the web. Our address is printed above. You can now access and download our application, the application instructions, various guidance documents, past issues of the Update, etc. You can also select the "Contact Us" button and e-mail any of us with questions. As always you can reach us by calling our direct telephone numbers. To find out an LCO's direct telephone number, please see the end of this publication. At this time, you cannot access laboratories' certification information. DHEC is in the process of converting to a new software package that will hopefully allow web access to laboratories' certificates. If you have any problems with or suggestions for the website, please contact Connie Turner at (803) 896-0976.

We have a new look. Because a banner for the Office of Laboratory Certification was designed for use on the web, we decided to use it with the "Update" as well. Hopefully this will give a consistent look to our informational publications.

Everyone should have received notice of our increased fees. Please note that when you submit an application package, the fee is now \$125 even if the paperwork you received with the package lists \$100 as the application fee.

Proficiency Testing (PT) Studies

The second year is progressing much more smoothly than the first year did. There are a few things to keep in mind.

- Make sure that your laboratory's SC ID number (for in-state labs) and/or EPA Lab ID number (for in-state and out-of-state labs) appears on the report from the PT Provider. Without this information, you may not get credit for the work you have done.

- Send us copies of your reporting forms as you send the originals in to be graded by the PT Provider. This has helped resolve many issues with reporting problems from both the laboratories and the Providers.
- Make sure you participate in an official Water Supply (WS) or Water Pollution (WP) study. Quick-turn around samples do not meet the EPA Criteria Document published in December 1998 and cannot be used for initial or annual PT certification requirements. If you have questions regarding a specific study, please contact us.
- Review your data reporting forms before submitting them. Changes made to the data reported no matter what the reason, cannot be used for certification purposes. This is true even if the Provider updates the report. The only exception is if the Provider made a typographical or reporting error when printing the report. If the error is the laboratory's, the results cannot be used. Part of the reason for participating in the study is showing that the correct results can be reported for use.
- The study cycle for the Water Supply (WS) study is from January until June 30 each year. The Water Pollution (WP) study is from July until December 31 each year. Please order your samples early so that you will have time to do repeat samples if necessary.
- The laboratory must document the analysis of the PT samples in the analytical records just like any other sample analyzed in the lab. This serves as a written record that can be used to show that the laboratory analyzed the samples. If the laboratory does not maintain analytical records for the PT samples, the results will be considered null and void and decertification could result. The PT samples must be treated just as any other sample in the lab. Without documentation of the reagents used, the reagent volumes, the instrument readings, and so on, the laboratory cannot defend the reported data. The easiest and best way to track the PT results is to log them into your normal sample tracking system, assign them a sample ID number, and use the sample ID number in all of your analysis records.

New Application for Certification

We now have an updated version of the application. It is dated 6/2001, so if yours is older than that, you may wish to get a new one. To get a revised application, you can download it from our webpage or contact us and ask for an application package. The application lists all methods for which we offer certification. These methods come directly from the Federal Register documents for the pertinent acts. Some new methods for which we are offering certification include:

Clean Water Act:

Low-level Mercury analysis using EPA Method 1631C
 UV₂₅₄ analysis using SM 5910B
 Toxicity Testing using Pimephales promelas using EPA Method 1000.0
 Toxicity testing using Cyprinodon variegates using EPA Method 1004.0
 Adsorbable Organic Halides (AOX) using EPA Method EPA 1650C
 Chlorinated Phenolics using EPA Method 1653
 Oil & Grease using EPA Method 1664A

Safe Drinking Water Act:

Bromate using EPA Method 300.0
 Bromide using EPA Method 300.1
 Chlorite using EPA Methods 300.0 and 300.1
 Total Organic Carbon using SM 5310 B, C, or D

Solid/Hazardous Waste:

Oil & Grease using EPA Methods 9070A and 9071B

Also included in the new application are some organic methods for use with the Pulp and Paper Industry and the Pharmaceutical Industry effluents. Please review the organic sections or contact us with specific questions regarding the organics certification.

Organic Certification Requirements

There are several requirements for the organic methods that generally arise when laboratories are applying for certification. To avoid a delay in your certification process or to ensure that your SOPs are compliant with South Carolina requirements, please review the December 1998 Update. This publication can be downloaded from our webpage. Simply select "Updates" on the left-hand side of the screen. A list of "Updates" available for printing appears on the right. Scroll down and select the one for December 1998. This should clear up any questions regarding the correct procedures for calibration and analysis. If you read this and have any questions, please contact us. If you do not have access to the internet or have difficulty downloading the Update, please contact us to request a copy.

How to Contact Us...		
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Do you have a question or issue you would like to see addressed in the next issue of the "Update"? If so, please contact Connie Turner and your question or comment may appear in the next issue of the "Update".



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